

## Alexandria Gazette.

THURSDAY EVENING, SEPT. 24, 1896

## HABITS OF SEA LIONS.

Some Facts Concerning These Strange Deep Sea Creatures.

Captain Mullett, says the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune, gave a reporter some valuable information concerning the capture and the habits of sea lions. "They are the most interesting of animals," said he, "and I believe they can be taught to do almost anything. I have watched their movements for 25 years and have naturally learned something about them. There is one time in the year to go after them, and that is during the breeding season, which begins about the 1st of June and lasts for about three weeks. When that period ends, the males, under the leadership of a chief, go away from the females, and we have never found where they go.

"They come again the next year, and it is curious to see how they arrange their herms, for the sea lion is polygamous. The old bull who is leader crawls up to a rocky which may contain 200 females. He appears to count them, for he tolls off six or eight of the males which are in his flock, and they take possession. There is much confusion until each male gets his share of the females, but after that all is serene, provided there is no flirting. If there is, there is sure to be a terrific fight. Ordinarily there is but little trouble.

"It is during this love-making period that I catch my sea lions. The males stay out of the water all the time and do not eat, and the females are not so wary as at other times. We use a small steamer, and, sighting a rookery, try to get near it without discovery, which is a hard thing to do. The animals have a sentinel who has keen eyes and gives notice of the approach of danger. But we get out of sight in small boats and land.

"Then we cautiously work toward the herd, hiding behind rocks until we get between them and the water at low tide. Each man carries a lasso, and I am, perhaps, the only man who can make a lasso stick for a short time on a sea lion's neck. Their heads are smaller than their necks, and it is very hard to keep the rope there, but I give it a certain twist that holds it until the animal throws up his tail, when one of my assistants deftly lassoes it. Then we have him. My rope slips off, but by that time we have a rope on each flipper. The men with the cage come. We pull the ropes taut and throw the cage over him. By a trick we turn it over and nail on the top. When the tide comes in, the cage, or rather a wooden box made of inch boards placed three inches apart, is floated to the vessel and hoisted on board.

"Of course the sea lion does not submit tamely to capture, and he does not hesitate to fight and to take the offensive. Myself and men have had some very narrow escapes, and it is no unusual thing to get bitten. They are extremely muscular animals, and, though they look clumsy and awkward, can handle themselves surprisingly well even on land. In the water they are quicker than a flash.

"There are some peculiar things about the sea lion and his way of living that few people know about. The females carry their young 365 days, never more, never less, and breed once a year, having one calf. Then, did you know that the sea lion has no tongue? That is true. He swallows his fish whole and always head first. They do not drink water either, though people say I am a liar when I say so. They absorb it through their skin. It was by watching them during the rutting season that I found that they could live for days and weeks out of water."

Tickets will be sold via the Pennsylvania Railroad Saturday and Sunday, September 26th and 27th and will be valid for return passage until Monday, September 28th. Good on any train.

**Baggage Transfer.**  
The Union Transfer Company's wagons will call at the Mount Vernon Railroad Office, 134 1/2 street and Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, hourly for the transfer of baggage to the several depots, charge for such transfer being Fifty Cents.

**COME RUBBER TISSUE**, for instantly mending k d gloves, torn clothing or cloth of any kind with no detection. No stitching required. Price 10c per yard. For sale by **WARFIELD & HALL.**

**LEADBEATER'S TALUM POWDER** for infants and adults. The only healthy and sanitary powder for the nursery and toilet. Price 10c. For sale by **E. S. LEADBEATER & SONS.**

**NEW GOODS**—Atlanta's Mince Meat, Soft Raising Buckwheat, Pancake Flour and Maple Syrup just received by **J. C. MILBURN.**

**12 MATS OF VERY FINE OLD JAVA COFFEE** just received for sale, freshly roasted or green, by **J. C. MILBURN.**

**UMRELLS** for 75c and 98c up, best for the money, at **A. C. SLAYMAKER'S.** Successor to Ames B. Slaymaker.

**12 MATS EXTRA FINE OLD Government JAVA COFFEE**, just received and for sale at 35c, freshly roasted, by **J. C. MILBURN.**

**BLACK AGRICULTURAL PEAS**, new crop, a store and for sale by **HERBERT BRYANT.** 117 King Street.

**ANOTHER lot of Sweet, Orr & Co's celebrated OVERALLS and JACKETS**, just received by **A. C. SLAYMAKER'S.**

**FINE IMPORTED RAY RUM**, in 1 pin and in half-pin bottles, or in any quantity as wanted. For sale by **WARFIELD & HALL.**

**GOOD RIO COFFEE**, freshly roasted at my store, 20c per lb. **J. C. MILBURN.**

**GREEN GINGER** just received by **J. C. MILBURN.**

## MEDICINAL.

**Sick Or Bilious Headache Cured by Taking**

**AYER'S Cathartic Pills**

**Awarded Medal and Diploma At World's Fair.**

Ask your Druggist for Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

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We have made large additions to our stock and are buying leading Proprietary Articles, chemicals, &c., direct from the manufacturers. We are therefore enabled to supply the trade with all goods usually carried by a well-stocked WHOLESALE DRUG HOUSE at prices as low as those given by the best houses in the larger cities. All goods forwarded by first freight or express after receipt of order.

Promptness is our specialty. We guarantee the purity of all drugs furnished. Correspondence invited.

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